

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST
DOMESTIC SHOE INDUSTRY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USDOC INFO EC BRUSSELS MTN GENEVA ROME
MAR 15 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

USDOC

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST
DOMESTIC SHOE INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 042827, FEB. 21, 1976

1. IN VIEW OF PENDING US ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION ON SHOES
A SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE FRENCH MINISTRIES
OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY TO HELP THE DOMESTIC SHOE
INDUSTRY AS REPORTED IN THE MARCH 10 EDITION OF FIGARO
FOLLOWS. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN INCLUDE THE FREEING OF

SHOE PRICES FROM CONTROLS EFFECTIVE MAY 15 TO ALLOW
MANUFACTURERS TO MEET COMPETITION. SUBSTANTIAL SUMS,
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SEVERAL TENS OF MILLIONS OF FRANCS, WILL BE MADE

AVAILABLE FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES FOR INVESTMENT IN
THE SHOE INDUSTRY.

2. THE PARAFISCAL TAX OF OCTOBER 1971 AIMED AT
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE INDUSTRY WILL
BE HELD AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL. LABELING REQUIREMENTS
WILL BECOME MORE STRICT ON SHOES; AND ENFORCEMENT
PROCEDURES FOR DESIGNATING MATERIAL AS "LEATHER" WILL
BE TIGHTENED WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING QUALITY. AS
REGARDS IMPORTS, CUSTOMS OFFICERS WILL PAY SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO GOODS PRODUCED UNDER ABNORMAL CONDITIONS
OR WHOSE STATED ORIGIN APPEARS DOUBTFUL. EFFORTS
OF INDUSTRY TO EXPORT SHOES WILL RECEIVE GREATER
SUPPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. FURTHERMORE THE QUESTION IS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE
THE COMMON MARKET TO SEE WHAT MEASURES OF A TEMPORARY
CHARACTER ARE APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE DISTURBANCES
EXISTING IN THIS SECTOR OF INDUSTRY.
INCREASED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO FIRMS IN PAYING
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IS ALSO ENVISAGED.
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